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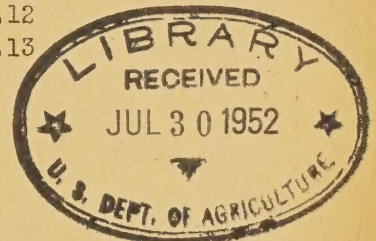
HIGHLIGHTS OF EXTENSION EDUCATION 1950-51  
RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS

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Scope and Status . . . . .	1
State Programs . . . . .	5
Role and Activities of Federal Office .	12
A Look Ahead . . . . .	13

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SCOPE AND STATUS



1. A long-established program but relatively new generally. It is hard to pinpoint the beginning of recreation programs in Cooperative Extension Work. By 1919 there were 4-H projects in wildlife and nature lore. In the early 20's a general recreation and music program in 4-H work was set up in Iowa under the leadership of Fannie Buchanan who wrote a number of national 4-H songs. Camping became a part of 4-H club work in the early days, beginning with outings on fair grounds at the time of the 4-H club shows in county and State fairs. State extension projects in recreation, mostly as a part of rural sociology, were set up in New York, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin during the 1920's. These included drama, music, and folk game activities.

Recreation in extension grew slowly from there, because extension work was largely thought of as entirely scientific agriculture and home economics for better farming and homemaking. But today recreation and community life are fairly generally recognized as a part of the whole development of rural standards of living, which is after all, the underlying objective of extension work. What happened is that rural life changed. Mechanization and other developments have lightened farm work and provided more leisure time. Better roads and other changes have increased communication between country and city, which has helped to lift the desires and living standards of rural people. Churches, schools, and special-interest organizations have added recreation to their programs. In many cases the people have undertaken community-wide recreation projects of one kind or another, such as the development of libraries, parks, playgrounds, fairs, fun days, and other activities or facilities. Farm families take vacations, travel, and visit in nearby towns and cities easier than ever before.

By E. J. Niederfrank, extension specialist in community organization and rural sociology, United States Department of Agriculture, from State annual plans of work, annual reports and other sources of information.



Recreation has come into Cooperative Extension Work through two main avenues. First, as a part of improving rural home and community life, and secondly, as an instrument for making extension meetings and other group activities more attractive so as to draw more rural people and thus extend the adoption of improved practices for better farming and home living. It is recognized as having a special place in 4-H club and youth programs. And as these programs expanded, and have reached into more families and neighborhoods, so has there been an increase of interest in recreation.

Today, some recreation is found in the Cooperative Extension Work of almost every State and territory. In 21 States it is recognized as a regular part of extension work and is on a project basis or with full-time specialists. Five of these States have two or more specialists - New York, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. About 20 more States have considerable recreation work, using the part-time assistance of whatever qualified personnel they might have on the campus and other resources. Only a very few States have little or none. A federal recreation specialist was added to the federal staff in 1935 - Miss Ella Gardner - who became widely-known throughout the United States. She passed away in 1942, and the position has only been partially filled since then, although recreation in State extension programs and need for assistance to the States have greatly increased.

A brief description of extension recreation work, as carried on in the States which provide it on a project basis for their people, is in the next main section, page 5.

2. Recreation in its own right - not to be confused with rural sociology. Recreation began in Cooperative Extension Work largely as a part of rural sociology and under that title. Recreation was one of the first points of departure for extension rural sociology or "rural betterment" as it was somewhat thought of, largely because of the demand for recreation work from rural people and organizations once it got started. Rural sociology became what identified as recreation, and recreation as sociology, and to a certain extent this may have retarded each from developing to its fullest possibilities.

But the development of scientific rural sociology with the expansion of resident-teaching and research in the field, especially after 1935, led to a distinct differentiation between it and recreation. Today, rural sociology is concerned with understanding and applying scientific information about the organization of rural life in terms of kinds of groups and communities, roles and kinds of traditions and customs, population trends, leadership, standards of living, and with group and community processes. Thus, it is in a position to contribute in various ways to extension methods and to community improvement. Recreation does contain a great deal of sociology, because recreation frequently involves group activity, but sociology is far more than recreation.

Thus, another major factor in the general setting of extension recreation besides the fact that it is new and growing, is the fact that its relationship to rural sociology is more clarified. This is helping both rural sociology and recreation to each make greater contributions to Cooperative Extension Work and to the improvement of rural living.



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The upward trend of recreation and cultural arts in extension work, the need for more of it on a project-specialist basis including in the federal office, and the need for clarification of its relationship to rural sociology were recently brought out by the report of a subcommittee set up by the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. 1/

3. Defense mobilization and other developments also in the setting now. The Korean situation steered extension recreation to new needs for rural areas. It was expected that increased work of rural families would reduce their interest in outside programs and distant activities, and increase their interest in home and local community recreation. There would be more mental tensions caused by disruption of family goals and news about boys in the service. There would be less leisure time; therefore, a need to better plan the use of it. There would be boys and girls leaving home for military service or work elsewhere who would especially like to have some recreation skills at their command to help them adjust to their new living conditions. Communities near military areas would need extra recreation programs. There would also be a need for adjusting recreation programs to provide for proper group activities that would most contribute to democratic living. Recreation would be a part of total fitness for defense and maintenance of democracy. Most important of all, the boys and girls returning from service and other work would want their communities kept up like they were before they left. And like after World War II, it could be expected that they would return with higher standards about recreation for their own home towns.

Extension recreation programs have been working on all these during the last year. The demand for recreation assistance and training has increased rather than diminished. Other agencies, such as the public schools, have been urged to step up their recreation programs, which, in turn, leads to increased demand for it in extension programs. Camping programs have further developed in 4-H club work, and there is greater demand for recreation that can be helpful to meetings and other group activities in extension work. There has been much increase in demand for interest in arts and crafts - for 4-H clubs and for people on the opposite end of the age scale - the retired and aging people who are now becoming a sizable part of our population, especially in rural towns and county seat places.

The Recreation and Rural Arts Awards Project sponsored by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work has given great impetus to recreation training in 4-H club work throughout the United States, and this impetus has carried over into other Extension programs and phases of rural life.

Research and developments in juvenile delinquency have led to increased concern about the need for more adequate recreation opportunities in our communities. Family life education and psychiatric developments are showing the role of recreation in producing stable family life and adjusted personalities, which in turn, are related to future success and happiness of boys and girls. Public educators and church leaders are calling today for adequate recreation more than ever before.

1/ Recreation In Cooperative Extension Work. By the advisory committee on recreation to the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy. November 1950. Available from the Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.



Legislation for public recreation has also come increasingly into the picture. Several States now have enabling acts which provide for some kind of county or other local public recreation programs, and similar legislation has been urged upon the federal Congress. A bill to authorize the creation of a Community Recreation Service in the federal government passed Senate and House Committees during the 81st Congress, and has been re-introduced this year. A bill to promote the development of public library services in rural areas was also introduced in Congress. Public county recreation programs continued successfully on an experimental basis in Indiana. Several States have set up special agencies, such as a Youth Commission or Development Commission, which include recreation service to communities as part of their programs in some way.

Private recreation organizations have enlarged rather than diminished their programs. Special commendation should be expressed to the National Recreation Association and the American Camping Association, both of which have helped Cooperative Extension Work a good deal over the years through their supply of teachers, training workshops, and published materials.

Another factor in the setting is the growth of interagency cooperation. The Federal Interagency Committee on Recreation, set up in 1946, has continued. The federal office of the Cooperative Extension Work is represented on it, along with the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Reclamation Service, Corps of Engineers, Office of Education, and the Children's Bureau. Similar committees on a State basis have been set up by about 25 States. These committees include such agencies as State Fish and Game departments, State Forestry departments, State departments of education, and others. These and the Federal Interagency Committee have been instrumental in developing an exchange of information about the recreation programs of the different agencies, developing teamwork among them, developing public recreation policies, and providing a certain amount of recreation information and data for other public or private agencies.

Public recreation facilities, such as forest camp sites, hunting and fishing grounds, lakes for boating and swimming, and parks and playgrounds have increased in recent years. Additional increases will undoubtedly follow, especially as resource development projects of one kind or another are carried out. Several State extension services have set up camp sites of their own for 4-H club and other programs. Public school officials have become increasingly aware of the need to overcome the "winning team" complex, and are balancing athletic and physical education programs with programs that provide for wider participation of students and for a fuller slate of extra-curricular activities. There has also been an expansion in the idea of what adequate recreation is - a lifting of standards on the part of public officials and the people. Still further developments are bound to come, with their consequent result in further improving recreation opportunities for rural people.



## STATE PROGRAMS

According to the Combined Annual Report of County Extension Workers for 1950-51, during the year over 700,000 families in 2400 counties were assisted with improving home recreation, and over 30,000 communities in 2200 counties were assisted in improving local recreation facilities and projects. Nearly 7,000 communities were assisted in providing public library services. During the year nearly 250,000 4-H club members in 1500 counties received definite training in music appreciation, and about the same number received training in recreation leadership which would help them lead activities in their own clubs and other communities activities. Nearly 100,000 4-H club members in 1200 counties received training in arts and crafts, and 37,500 in 1100 counties studied wildlife and nature lore among their 4-H club activities. About 7,200 4-H club encampments were held, most of which provided considerable recreation activity and training.

Below is a brief summary of the program content of extension education in recreation as it is carried on in the States which provide it for their people, including examples of activities, accomplishments, and some new or special developments.

### Fields of recreation education and assistance - in approximate order of extent

Recreation in 4-H camping - recreation training periods during camp; special camp activities, such as Campfires, Vespers, hikes, cockouts, other events or ceremonies; camp handicrafts; nature lore; and sports programs.

Recreation peps for meetings - group singing, stretchers, mixers, and other special activities for improvement of extension meetings, tours, 4-H clubs, community organization meetings, and public gatherings.

Social recreation - folk games and other group activities for youth organizations and others; group recreation planning.

Special music projects - county rural choruses, music festivals, aid to school music programs, radio music lessons.

Home and family recreation - activities for families and children at home, such as plans for home recreation facilities, equipment, large family gatherings, and away-from-home family recreation.

Community recreation planning - aid to individual communities in analysis of needs and methods, plans for programs and facilities, special events, meeting special problems such as recreation for youth or for aging people; treatment of recreation in community and youth studies.

Dramatics - use of skits and short plays at meetings, drama clubs, little theater projects, play writing, drama festivals.

Arts and crafts - art and craft shows, hobby groups, home craft training, 4-H handicraft projects, radio classes, painting.



Sports and field games - sports festivals, playgrounds programs and facilities.

Reading - home demonstration and 4-H club reading projects, development of public library services for rural areas, reading as a part of home and family recreation.

Methods used in extension programs - in order of use

Recreation leadership training meetings and institutes for leaders in 4-H, women's groups, churches, schools, and other organizations.

Personal aid in 4-H round-ups and camps.

Publication of materials - bulletins, leaflets, films, records.

Promotion and management of special recreation events or projects - music festivals, folk festivals, rural sports tournaments, rural choruses.

Providing recreation headline at large meetings and events, frequently on a demonstration basis. Community fun nights.

Loan libraries.

State and county extension staff training in recreation.

Counsel to individuals, groups, communities,

Radio and press.

In some States the extension recreation program is more or less balanced among these different types of recreation and methods used, while other States have quite extensive work in mainly two or three of these kinds.

Examples of activities and accomplishments.

Arkansas has a general program. A Fun Festival is featured at the State 4-H Club Encampment, and last year an annual 4-H Club Arts and Crafts Show was initiated, in which 100 entries were made from 29 counties. Over 200 plays were written and presented by rural women as part of the home demonstration original play-writing project. Fifteen (15) counties have rural women's choruses, and nearly all home demonstration clubs have group singing at their regular meetings. Blue awards were won by 35 counties in the National 4-H Recreation and Rural Arts Program, and their work included club, home, and community recreation activities and recreation leadership. Recreation was taught in over 50 county leader training meetings attended by nearly 2000 rural leaders, from 4-H clubs, women's groups, PTA's, churches, schools, and county extension agents. The Junior Farm Bureaus, which are composed of young people 18 to 30 years of age, include recreation as a major part of their meetings and training is given them by the recreation specialist. Jefferson County had a 4-H club Folk Festival in which over 300 boys and girls participated.



County after county had "Neighborhood Nites" during the year - 68 in Jackson County, 50 in North Arkansas County. In Polk County 4 vacant school buildings were converted into community centers, several in other parts of the State. The Selma community in Drew County told the story of its community recreation as its State and county fair exhibit. Plans are underway in Clay County for 4-H club members, home demonstration members, and farm organizations members all meeting together at times in family-type meetings. A public picnic ground was built by the Oak Hill Home Demonstration Club of Garland County, and also by a number of others in their localities. Lincoln County has a new county-wide recreation center on the fairgrounds which is open one day a week, and the Cornerville Home Demonstration Club in this county set up a children's playground to overcome the hazard of children playing around the community store. Many 4-H clubs have chosen recreation for their club project for the year. In Sharp County 75 percent of all home demonstration club members reported having improved family life through reading, singing, playing games, and outdoor fun. In Woodruff County several families carried on demonstrations in family fun.

The extension recreation specialist published the following leaflets: "International Play Party", "Hobby Shows", "Singing Games", and "Community Singing". A loan library is also operated. Recreation training was also carried out in cooperation with various State groups, such as the Farm Bureau, State Home Demonstration Council, State Congress of Parents and Teachers, YMCA and YWCA, State Public Library, as well as with various other extension programs, especially conservation, family life, and community improvement. Extension staff members are aided in including special activities to pep up their regular meetings.

In Oregon social or group recreation is featured. During the year the specialist held 49 leader-training meetings in square dancing and folk games in 17 of the State's 36 counties, at which over 950 leaders from various organizations received definite training and put it in practice back in their own local groups. Another 25 leader-training meetings were held for song leadership, game leadership, and home recreation. County agents report that folk dancing and games are now used in meetings by many rural groups. As a result of leader training in Columbia County, several Churches now use this at the close of their regular meetings, as are also several youth organizations and other community groups in the county. "It increases community spirit and provides excellent activity in which both parents and children can participate", say rural leaders.

Leader-training meetings on home recreation in Washington and Coos counties resulted in local home demonstration club leaders going back to their local groups and teaching this subject in 43 local unit meetings attended by over 900 rural women, with 250 families reporting having made game boards and large numbers using other suggestions. Textile painting and gift wrapping are special craft projects also taught in the Oregon extension recreation program. Assistance was also given 13 county 4-H camps and 3 county homemakers' camps.



County extension planning committees are reporting need for recreation development. The Baker County committee said "Communities need neighborliness, cooperation, and recreation for youth". The Clatsop County committee urged that "family fun be encouraged between parents and children, and that leader-training in recreation be provided more". The Josephine County committee recommended to the extension staff and leaders that there be established a recreation center for older people, and that more emphasis be given to home and community recreation in the extension program". Extension recreation has also been a factor in getting more and better municipal recreation programs developed in a number of small cities and towns of the State, and several communities have built club houses or community centers.

Drama and music are main parts of the extension recreation program in Kansas, for example. Activities by extension agents and rural people increased by more than 100 percent in these fields during the last year. There were 392 plays presented in County 4-H festivals, and 80 by other extension groups in the State, including 43 original plays or pageants written by local people themselves. A recreation drama service is provided which includes a play-lending library that received 285 requests from local groups for plays. In some counties the home demonstration programs include annual play festivals, and 3 one-act plays were presented by rural groups in this year's annual Home Talent Festival during Women's Week at the college.

Also in the State this year were 118 vocal music and 33 instrumental music extension groups, such as county rural women's choirs, 4-H club quartets and orchestras, and these groups made 304 public appearances in their rural communities. In addition to music and drama, 572 extension groups have an active handicraft program, and there were 126 rural softball teams in operation. Music and drama were taught by the extension specialist at 99 leader-training meetings attended by 698 leaders, by county extension agents at 84 meetings attended by 2265 people, and by local leaders before their own groups at 691 meetings attended by 13,700 people. The extension recreation specialist also had 16 one-day district training schools in recreation leadership for county extension agents and local leaders, gave 26 radio talks on recreation, and prepared a monthly recreation leaflet called "Whirl of Fun". During the year 7083 families reported having been assisted in improving home recreation, a 200 percent increase over 1949, and 2662 families have a family story hour, a 40 percent increase, as part of the balanced-farming and family living program.

In South Dakota music is also featured in extension recreation. A special part of the project is assistance for the improvement of rural school music. This is done through training sessions for school teachers at county teachers institutes and through weekly radio broadcasts of music lessons which are heard by hundreds of schools. Chief song materials for the extension music program are the leaflets prepared by the specialist "Harmony Around The World", of which a new series is published annually by the Extension Service. Some counties report that one or more home demonstration club members have applied music leadership learned by giving special help in music to rural schools in their counties. Home demonstration clubs were also influential in getting pianos in 63 schools, having pianos tuned in 104 schools, helping obtain band uniforms and giving other musical aid in 105 cases, and getting teachers with better musical training hired in 150 schools.



In Wisconsin and New York, "little theaters" feature the extension drama recreation program. There are 110 communities with "little theater" groups in New York State, over half of them in towns and small cities serving rural areas. In Wisconsin the drama project is carried out by the Wisconsin Idea Theater in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service, general university extension, and the university radio station. Leader training in drama for 4-H clubs was taught in 10 counties, and another special feature of the program is the rural writers' association which has 1723 individual and group memberships in the State and over 1000 manuscripts were submitted in the annual rural writers' contest in 1950.

The Wisconsin program also includes rural painting and drawing, with a full-time extension specialist in this field and an artist-in-residence. Special assistance in art and design was given to rural schools in 21 counties, and to home demonstrations clubs, 4-H clubs, and other groups in 18 counties. During the year 12 district rural art shows were held, and 9 county art shows sponsored by local groups. There were 716 rural artists listed in the State last year. And a State-wide "Let's Draw" radio course prepared by the extension specialist and broadcast over the Wisconsin School of the Air, had 78,000 school children enrolled in it from 3700 schools for the 31 weekly lessons.

#### Some new and special developments

County recreation leaders' councils. (Oregon)

County community activities committee for this project in extension program planning. (Arkansas)

Recreation leader-training one of the main studies in State 4-H Summer School. (Oregon)

Family Nites at home and family parties - to build family life and help children learn company manners. (Oregon)

Eye-openers for home demonstration meetings - a short bit of new recreation or information at beginning of each meeting to encourage prompt attendance as well as instruction. (Oregon)

Promote and develop organization and finance for recreation through State League of Municipalities. (Utah)

Semi-annual conferences on youth and recreation for county extension agents. (Illinois)

1-hour pre-meeting for recreation leader training included in providing "service" recreation for groups. Then part of the service recreation is presented by persons so trained. (South Dakota)

Group singing taught from phonograph records made through college with one of the county rural choruses doing the recording. (South Dakota)

Homemaker as Hostess program. (Massachusetts)



Music and Drama Festival during Farm and Home Week program. (Illinois)

County public recreation departments (Indiana) A movie is available describing this type of development in 3 experimental counties.

Half-day pre-camp clinic for staff at annual extension conference. (Ore.)

Recreation is recognized as a part of the Balanced Farming and Family Living Program. (Kansas)

Community class during Farm and Homemakers' Short Course, with the sessions containing training in recreation and other steps for better community meetings. Was one of largest classes in short course. (La.)

A community page in the State Farm Bureau News monthly, and recreation subject-matter notes in monthly letter to extension staff. (Louisiana)

Annual State recreation conference, and an annual State country dance festival. (Massachusetts)

County hobby shows sponsored by home demonstration clubs. (Colorado)

Joined with State Fish and Game Department in development of an educational program in wildlife conservation. (Colorado)

Lectures, discussions, and demonstrations on community improvement and recreation in annual State Grange Officers Conference. (Pa)

Extent of work measured by number of contacts, comparing programs, counties, and trend over a period of years. (Pennsylvania)

Joined with Department of Child Development and Family Life on 2-day training meetings, giving instruction in recreation for family fun and music appreciation, as part of the family life education program. (New York)

Recreation included as part of training for better meetings in extension county and district leadership schools.

2-day recreation workshop for rural pastors in cooperation with a theological seminary. (Ohio)

Package library. (North Dakota)

A special 4-H Talent and Song Leading Awards Project. (Georgia)

New district and 4-H camping sites being built to permit having camps operate on a small-group or group-unit basis. (Iowa)

Campus organization of 150 students (The Folk-A-Whirlers) provides teams of leaders to supply recreation leadership for community groups in the vicinity of the college. The organization meets twice monthly for fellow ship, training, and scheduling of teams to requests received. (Purdue in Indiana)



County extension agents made a definite part of recreation leader training institutes; meetings also embrace recreation for all age groups, and for planning special events scheduled to come up or favored in the particular counties. (Texas)

Other State extension specialists and leaders helped and urged to see that some special activity is included in their meetings so as to make them more attractive. (Kentucky)

One week training workshop on drama - writing, using, etc.- for recreation activities and meetings. (Iowa)

County training meetings put on a 1-day basis, and followed up with second, third, and fourth meetings weekly or a month apart, to overcome the difficulty of leaders trying to get to training meetings 2 or 3 days in succession. (Oregon, Massachusetts)

Full-time recreation specialist in 4-H club department opens training meetings to leaders from various groups. (Kentucky)

concentrated

Leadership training/ on a selected or demonstration county basis with follow-up in the same counties for a period of a year or two. (Kentucky)

Separated recreation from rural sociology and set up under a new project all its own as part of director's staff, and title of specialist changed to "extension recreationist". (Illinois)

Making a set of slides of extension recreation program. (Massachusetts)

Some comments from the report of one of the State extension recreation specialists (titled "assistant rural sociologist") are revealing. The specialist says:

"I feel that the role of rural sociology should be kept broad so that other areas besides recreation could be worked on. At present the extension work in rural sociology is mostly recreation, since the extension supervisors are still rather suspicious or do not understand sociology. . . . I have also gotten idea that the various groups which request recreation assistance from us expect direct and rather narrowly-defined recreation. Thus, they do not desire complete consultation on a camp recreation program, for example, but only aids for an evening campfire or on some folk dancing. I would recommend that it be emphasized that the service offered by us is to train their lay and county staff personnel, and that they must get that done sometime before the actual event. We must wholesale, not retail. This would even apply to such big events as 4-H Leader conferences and fair. Train lots of leadership, and see that the program is broken down into small enough units so that the persons can handle it. . . . The specialist was also called upon all too often during the past year to take care of details of organizing community groups on a county level for this or that program, when it should have been taken care of by the county staff and leaders with the State specialist used only on a clinical workshop basis after the county is functioning.



..... Some of the groups asking for service from this department should also be counseled in such areas as group work methods and committee processes. I see personality-damaging incidents and other problems indicating needs in the area of group work".

#### ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL OFFICE

The role of the federal office in extension recreation programs is to national bodies and State extension services much like what the role is of the State extension services to other State agencies and the county extension services. It is a role of indirect leadership, general training, and consultation service or assistance. Its major activities center around helping the States develop their programs, keep abreast of proposed legislation and new programs in the field, assist with the development of public policies and programs, keep in touch with research and educational developments of concern to the field, maintain relations and render services to national agencies and meetings in the interests of the field, and administer the State annual plans of work and annual reports for the State extension recreation projects.

But the activities of the federal office in extension recreation are quite limited. Only one specialist is assigned to this field, and the work is part-time in combination with rural sociology and community development, and in 1950-51 this person also handled federal office activities in extension health education in place of Elin Andersen who was ill and passed away during the year. Thus, each of these 3 fields has had the equivalent of only about 1/3 man time during the last year.

A major activity was assistance to the National Recreation Congress at Cleveland. The specialist helped plan and conduct the rural program of the Congress, and at the same time met in extra meetings and individually with the State extension recreation specialists who attended to discuss State extension recreation programs. Another important activity has been regular participation in the meetings of the Federal Interagency Committee on Recreation, of which the Extension Service is a member. During the past year the committee developed a statement of recommended recreation policy for the federal government, and provided the special President's Commission on Water Resources with information for its studies and reports. Other national meetings assisted were the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth in December 1950, the Extension Conference on Family Life which followed it, and the Mobilization Conference for Health, Physical Education and Recreation held at Washington, D.C. in April 1951. Assistance was also given to organization of the Rural Recreation Section of the American Recreation Society. Other meetings and activities assisted which pertained to rural sociology, community development, and health are reported on in the reports which cover these projects.



Special assistance was given to the subcommittee on extension recreation set up by the Extension Organization and Policy Committee to analyze the place of recreation in Cooperative Extension Work and give suggestions for the future. The federal specialist was a member of this subcommittee and wrote preliminary drafts of the report. The report was published in November 1950, and sent to all State extension directors and recreation specialists. The specialist also spent considerable time completing preparation of the bulletin "Planning Recreation for Home and Community" and seeing it through to publication and distribution. This bulletin came off the press in January 1951, and was widely requested.

Circular letters including items and materials on recreation have been sent to the States quarterly. Items dealing with recreation for the Director's Weekly Letter and the Extension Service Review have been prepared or aided on numerous occasions. Extension recreation projects have been visited in 7 States - New York, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Then there have been numerous incidental committee functions and individual contacts when recreation was considered. Consideration of recreation is also included on numerous occasions when pertinent in the extension community improvement and health programs, as all three are somewhat related. Frequently there was cooperation with 4-H club work.

#### A LOOK AHEAD

What's in store for extension recreation programs? Progress to date and the upward trend of concern about recreation have stimulated interest for even greater development of this kind of program in Cooperative Extension Work. Recreation is recognized more than ever as having a place in the building of good family life and meeting youth needs. Rural people want to have community recreation facilities and services along with other conditions, equal to those available to people in cities. But not all desired community recreation facilities and programs need to be supplied by the local community alone, for many of them are too small to do so. But they can work with others in obtaining such services and improvements on a larger basis of territory, such as the county, so that adequate opportunities for recreation will be available to all the people in the county or other territory. Recreation also has a place in defense mobilization, for it is a part of total fitness of people for maximum health, work, and service. The future will see even greater interest in recreation to meet problems and needs arising when there is letdown in the emergency, and as a part of group processes and living patterns of democracy.

New developments will take place. We will have new research findings about group and personality development, new relationships between town and country people, new relationships between agencies concerned with recreation, new or changes in recreation legislation and public policies, changes in population and community life, and changes in the defense situation which will affect recreation in one way or another. All these, in turn, mean now immediate concerns and new developments for recreation program content, teaching methods, individual and group recreation practices, and community organization for area programs.



There will be increased interest in recreation for aging people, and in preparation for retirement. Changes in the defense situation, in farming, and in community life will produce new recreation needs for youth. New calls for control of crime and delinquency will, in turn, call for more and better recreation facilities and programs to better meet youth needs. Increased interest in mental health will enhance interest in recreation, so also will increased education in the field of family life and community improvement. At the same time, there will also be new developments in recreation itself - new skills, new program ideas, new methods, new materials. Recent years have seen much new interest in handicrafts, and in nature lore and conservation. These will develop still further as a part of recreation. New methods of operating camps are developing.

The great challenge will be to help more of the people who want and need more and better recreation to learn about and obtain it.

One of the greatest needs of extension recreation is for more research information. Research has been woefully lacking in this field. We need to know more about the values of recreation to group processes and to individual personality development. We need to know more about the changing attitudes and preferences of people toward recreation, and effects upon recreation of community changes and other social changes. We need to know more about the relationships and policies of agencies concerned with recreation programs, so that ways can be worked out for better working together in making available various resources and facilities. We need research about the relation of family, group, community, county, and wider areas in the supplying of recreation programs and facilities - so that the proper sizes, kinds, and methods of working together on different territorial bases can be worked out for providing programs and facilities. County recreation departments are coming, and will provide some answers for this problem.

There is also a need for a broader concept of recreation on the part of extension staffs and rural leaders, and for getting recreation coming up through the regular extension program planning processes. There is a need for understanding it in relation to various programs, so that there will be a desire, for example, to develop the camping programs as a whole rather than simply calling for help on some particular activity in it.

Other needs are: further clarification of relationships of the extension recreation program with rural sociology, 4-H club work, and with other related programs; the need for enlarging service and assistance to State extension recreation programs; the need for providing opportunities for joint training and exchange of ideas for the State extension recreation specialists, in order to better meet the trends and needs like those mentioned above.



Some special emphases for the next few years are:

Balanced recreation program content

Teaching the values of recreation along with the skills

Community recreation planning

Recreation activities that help to pep up meetings and events

Recreation for:

Youth and youth programs

Aging and retired people

Home and family

Preparation each year of one or more pieces of lasting teaching material

Evaluation of the effectiveness of our extension recreation teaching, and reporting on what is done in counties as a result of our recreation projects.

Relate to and assist the 4-H Recreation and Rural Arts Awards Project at the above and other points as much as needed, and as much as possible.

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